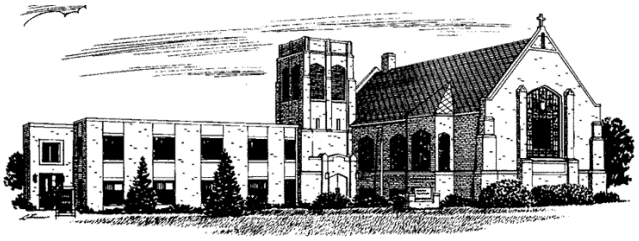


SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

May 2018

It's in the 30's and I am writing an article about the Beach Bible study that begins the end of May! We may wonder if we will need to be wrapped in our winter jackets! Yet, as we see the signs around us – the crocus and the daffodils peeking their way through the cold ground, we know that spring and summer are on their way. In the meantime, we are always assured of the warmth of God's love, no matter the season.

This past week I attended the Institute of Liturgical Studies at Valparaiso University. Worship, preaching, plenary sessions, and workshops centered on the theme - "Washed in Water: How Baptism Forms Us." We were reminded of the promises that come through water and the word, we heard of ways we live into and out of those baptismal waters and we were challenged to think about new and often surprising ways that God is working through the community of faith. I found the time to be one not only of renewal and refreshment, but also an invitation (and perhaps even a mandate) to be open to the Spirit's working. I invite you to join me in the journey with an open heart and mind – to be renewed, refreshed, and challenged as we thirst for mercy, justice, and God, and as we welcome new Christians to the font and into the body of Christ. Together we *"join in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world."* (ELW, Holy Baptism, p. 231)

Pastor Joan

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: *oleson@saronlutheran.org*

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: roll1mc@gmail.com
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Nanci Fenrick, Financial Secretary
Email: nanci0126@yahoo.com
Emily Gaul, Child Care

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; and **Bernice Koski** is at Woodland Terrace; **Virginia Anserello** is at Pine Ridge, Stevensville;

Serving in the military:
Andy Wedde – **California**
Sarah Deal Burrow – Afghanistan

Office Hours at Saron
Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9:30 AM - 11 AM+
Nanci (financial secretary): Wednesday 2:15 p.m.
Pastor: most mornings, except Fridays
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to *oleson@saronlutheran.org*. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to *info@saronlutheran.org*.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in May 2018

May 2 - John Hoodlebrink
3 - Brooklyn Huff
4 – Andrew Fortenbacher
5 - Jan Stevens
6 – Charlene Baumgartner
9 - Dennis Lundgren
11 - Kelli (Hoodlebrink) Christman
12 - Alexander Maly
Andrew Stankiewicz
13 - Jenna Henderson
15 - Kathie Bradley
17 – Arla Huelsberg
19 - Monica Freemire
22 - Connor Ashley
23 - Adam Bradley
25 - Lila Roethel
Matthew Bradley
28 - Marlene Cox
30 - Benjamin Frey
31 - David Bradley

Happy Anniversary Wishes to Saron's Members

May 2 - Phillipand Kathleen Preston
15 - David and Elizabeth Lundgren
16 - Ted and Ann Dosch
22 – James and Laura Hicks
23 - Edward and Mary Alice Brunner
25 - Matthew and Amanda Bradley
30 – Robert and Mary Kynast

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round"

If there is anyone who has been omitted, or, if the dates are incorrect from the birthday and anniversary list, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you

WELCOME

We welcome Caden James Zwar, through the sacrament of baptism on April 1. Caden's parents are Steve and Sarah Zwar.

NEW MEMBER GATHERING

If you are interested in learning more about the Christian faith from the Lutheran perspective, or if you are interested in joining Saron, you are invited to a gathering on Sunday, May 6, immediately following the 2nd service. New members will be received on May 20th.
Questions? See Pastor.

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS
As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sun. May 6 —
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

Sun. May 13 —
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

Sun. May 20 —
Day of Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (30)
Romans 8:22-27
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Sun. May 27 —
The Holy Trinity
Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

WORSHIP BULLETINS
If you are interested in using a bulletin with no staples, please ask an usher. There are copies available.

NURSERY NEWS
We have our child care provider in place. We have great volunteers who serve when they can, so we have a changing list throughout the year. We always welcome more volunteers and can work with your availability. Help us to provide parents a place to bring their children during the service if they choose. If you are interested in helping, please let Marilyn Lucy or Krin Jurgensen know of your willingness.

PRAYER GROUP
Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

Learning

book *of* faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Mark your calendars now! We will be holding Vacation Bible School in the evenings of August 6-9. If you would like to help, contact Kristen Harper.

The Ephesus Group
Would you like to meet with others from Saron on a Sunday afternoon for a Bible study and light lunch? If so, this group is for you. Contact Mary Kynast if interested.

THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS
Our conversations continue and we invite you to join the dialogue! Our schedule for May is as follows:
May 3 – Judaism
May 10 – Hinduism
May 17 – Buddhism
May 24 – Islam

We meet from 9:30-11:00 am in the lounge area. After Memorial Day, we will break for the summer. Alternately, we invite you to come to the beach on Tuesday mornings at 8:30. See related article.

BEACH STUDY

Beginning May 29, we will join at Lions Park Beach for Bible study at 8:30 am. Wear your jacket, bring a cup of coffee (if desired), and we will study the Scripture for the following Sunday and join in prayer. The conversation usually lasts 45 min to an hour.

MEN'S MONTHLY DEVOTION

There will be NO Men's Bible devotions/Breakfast during the month of May.

TUESDAY EVENING MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Saron's Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study meets at 6:00pm at the church. At 7:00pm we adjourn for a time of fellowship (something to eat and something to drink). We know everyone is busy so Bible study is a "come as you can" group. All men are invited to join in. During May, we are continuing our study of Genesis.

For more information call or text Bob Kynast at 269-921-2786 or email at bobkynast@gmail.com

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).

1ST SUNDAY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

May 6th we will again meet at 6:30 in the upstairs lounge. This will be our last meeting of the season until we convene again in October. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Elizabeth Strout strikes again with "Anything is Possible". This work of fiction presents a group of connected stories about family and community ties set in the fictional town of Amgash, Illinois. Strout's characters grapple with the past and struggle to face the ever changing future. This book is sure to inspire an interesting discussion.

We will also be choosing the books we will read next session. Please come with any ideas of books you would like to have us read and discuss. The full list of coming attractions will appear in the June Newsletter. Questions?

Call Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354)
kcowall@hotmail.com.

"In the case of good books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you".
(Mortimer J. Adler)

Our confirmation students bake cookies for the folks serving at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. One of our synod's pastors, the Rev. Chris Laughlin, serves there as chaplain.

Youth

MAY MEETING

Saron's Youth Group will be meeting May 6, 2018 at 12:30 for Bible Study and activities. All middle school and high school youth are encouraged to come. We'll finish up at approximately 2:30. Any non-youth that would like to volunteer and attend, please let Scott know. *scottgaspari@outlook.com*.

HOUSTON BOUND
We're heading to Houston next summer for the National Youth Gathering. Two youth (Meredith Gacek and Jenna Henderson), as well as two adults (Laurel Gacek and Pastor Joan) are registered. The theme for this event is "This Changes Everything." The primary Scripture will be Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."

FUNDRAISER
Thank you for your generous support! In the narthex you will see a display board with a number of envelopes. This offers an opportunity for you to donate monetary support. Some examples: $15 for Gathering t-shirts; $10 for site-seeing in the city; $20 for misc. transportation. It's as simple as taking an envelope, filling it with the designated amount of cash or a check, and drop it in the offering plate or at the display table. Thank you!

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments
Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Outreach

"Joyfully Sharing God's Love For All." Yes, that is what Saron does every day.

FACEBOOK
We love to share pictures of Saron's ministry on our Facebook page and we get great feedback. It is our practice not to put names with the pictures. If you prefer your own or your family member's picture not to be posted, please let us know, so that we can honor that request.

LENTEN OUTREACH
ELCA GOODGIFTS Lenten season 2018-
24 School supplies for a child in a classroom
11 School fees and uniforms for a girl
8 Farming field school for women
5 Microloans for women
Total donations = $1,910.00
Thank you for your support to the ELCA GOOD GIFTS PROGRAM, Jan Stevens

CROP WALK NEWS
The Blossomland Crop Walk will be here before we know it! Mark your calendar for May 20. You have the option of walking all or part of the 5 mile route. So lace up your shoes and start walking. Consider collecting donations for this worthwhile community cause.

Please ask Liz Kunkel, Jan Stevens, Steve Bell or Amy Nelson for a pledge envelope. Thank you.

Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen
Thank you and God's Blessings to each of you for supporting this mission to feed the hungry in our area. Please contact Jan Stevens@269/429-2044, if you'd like to help work at the SK or bake cookies. Thank YOU!

MICHIGAN BLOOD DRIVE
Michigan Blood will be here **July 9th** from 2-6pm. Please save the date on your calendar if you are a regular donor or new to donating but are thinking about it. Celebrate Independence Day and then give someone who needs blood a reason to celebrate! Take care to eat and drink well before and after and bring a picture I.D. Snacks will be provided – some sweet, some salty - all tasty. Some facts about blood and blood donation from MI Blood: More than 75% of all Americans reaching age 72 will need blood in their lifetimes; 97% will have a loved one or friend who will need blood. Most donated red blood cells can be stored (refrigerated) for 42 days. Any questions, contact Keith Stevens or Marilyn Lucy or look at MIBLOOD.ORG

LWR Fair Trade

Thank you to all who have supported Fair Trade purchases through Lutheran World Relief. We will no longer be selling these items, at least for the near future. We are currently liquidating any present stock for a donation, until all items are sold.

Women of the ELCA

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Deborah Circle will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 9, 2018, in the church lounge. Frieda Williams will be hostess and Kathy Cowall will be the Bible study leader.

ATTENTION ALL WOMEN OF SARON

Saron Women's Annual Retreat will be held at the home of Linda Pater on Sat. April 28, 2018 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The cost for the day is $10.00 . Our speaker for the day will be Monique Yoder who has spent the last 10 years teaching in Lithuania and the Middle East. The topics for the day will be "Teaching As Missions in Lithuania" and "Teacher Becoming Student." The day also includes a "getting to know you" session, music, a break to visit or take a walk, breakfast and lunch and a time to say goodbye. Please join us for a fun filled and enlightening day. A sign up sheet will be placed in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please call Linda Pater at 269-468-3303

Support

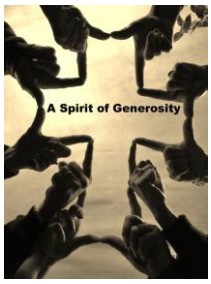
A Special Message for travelers and those who prefer electronic giving - Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

South West Michigan Interfaith Peace & Justice Collaborative 2018 Summer Educational Forums

The newly formed SW Michigan Interfaith Peace and Justice Collaborative (in which Saron participates) is launching a summer educational series. The first event will be held on Saturday, May 19th from 11:30 to 1:30 pm at the Saint Joseph Public Library (500 Market Street in St Joseph). The film "The Saint and the Sultan" will be shown; it chronicles the historic meeting between the Christian Saint Francis and the Muslim Sultan of Egypt Malik Al-Kamil. A brief discussion will follow the showing of the film. Feel free to bring a sack lunch. For more information, contact Laura Hicks or Sid Mohn.

STEWARDSHIP

….with glad and generous hearts, praising God …. Acts 2:46



Rev Dr. Mark Allan Powell in his book *Giving to God: The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life* asks this question:

"What would happen if God were in charge of our finances?" p 38

Interesting question. He goes on to say that he has no way of knowing what God would do, but he does think he can promise this: If we put God in charge of our finances, our lives would be better, not worse. "When we put God in charge of *any* area of our lives, our lives get better – not worse." p 39

As we learn in the next couple months about some of the needs of our church facility may we each consider all that God has given us and with a sense of gratitude generously pledge to join together to keep Saron strong and thriving.

God's work. Our Hands.

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with TD Ameritrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, e-mail Matt Bradley and Nanci Fenrick to receive the account number for which the shares will be transferred to. Once the transaction has been completed, e-mail Matt Bradley and Nanci Fenrick the name of the stock, the number of shares, and the date of the transfer. This allows the transaction to be completed and ensures it is included on your giving statement.

Thanks! Matt Bradley, treasurer

Facilities

GOLDEN HAMMERS NEED HELP!

Golden Hammers is a group of volunteers that meets every Wednesday from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the church. They are women and men that gather to do various jobs in and outside of the church that help keep Saron looking good and also saves the church a considerable amount of money. Work includes folding bulletins, preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing, preparing the sanctuary for Sunday service, minor maintenance and some light cleaning/vacuuming. We really need some additional helpers, both men and women. It is a good fellowship opportunity as well as helping to maintain God's house. Please consider helping and

if you have any questions talk to Bill Oleson or Pastor Joan.

HELP NEEDED AFTER SECOND SERVICE
Please consider helping out once every other month with the important job of securing our building after the second service. The job would be to lock all the outer doors, turn off lights and check a few areas in the building. It does not take long and usually you only are assigned once every other month if we have enough help. This is a job that needs to be done and we cannot expect our Pastor to have that responsibility. If you can help or you would like to find out more about the job please contact Janet or Bill Oleson.

USED INK CARTRIGES NEEDED
Please save your used ink cartridges as it saves the church money in office supplies. There is a collection box in the Narthex.

LAWN MOWERS NEEDED
Lawn mowers needed for the summer. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Volunteers to mow the yards instead of hiring that work out saved the church an estimated **$1,100.00** in expenses last year. Please sign up to help the church save money on the lawn mowing and keep our grounds looking good. The church has its own lawn mower. There is a sigh-up sheet in the Narthex. If you have any questions please see or notify Bill Oleson.

Thanks to Bill Oleson and Deb Standen who re-assembled the benches in the courtyard and to Brian and Coanne Hohman for all the work trimming bushes and courtyard clean-up.

Council News

Attendance Record	
03/25/2018	123
04/01/2018	195
04/08/2018	102
04/15/2018	88

Saron's Council Members – 2018
Karen Hinckley (326-0688) – President
Judi Huff (473-5075) – Vice President
Matt Bradley (419-306-5780) – Treasurer
Karen Johnson (269-983-2800) – Secretary
+++
Tyler Cook (429-5550) – Worship
Brad Frey (921-8618) – Facilities
Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – Youth
Nolan Becker (269-558-3252) – Youth
Don Hafer (269-470-2255) - Support
Karen Johnson (269-983-2800) – Hospitality
Judy Huff (473-5075) - Hospitality
Kristen Harper (277-9277) – Learning
Amy Nelson (920-227-5354) – Outreach
Joan Oleson (983-1273) office;
983-2475 home)– Pastor

SARON EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

May 2018

Summer Worship Schedule Begins
May 27
One service only – 9:30 AM
NO Summer Learning Hour

Worship in the Courtyard on May 27
Weather Permitting
Bring a lawn chair for seating, as you are able

Saron Volunteer Schedule

	May 6 *Sixth Sunday of Easter*		**May 13** *Seventh Sunday of Easter*		**May 20** *Day of Pentecost*		**May 27** *Holy Trinity*
	8:30	***11:00***	***8:30***	***11:00***	**8:30**	**11:00**	**9:30**
Assisting minister	Pauline Ngonyani	Scott Kohs	Sue Rood	Tyler Cook	Eric Standen	Denise Cook	Bill Oleson
Reader/ Comm.Asst.	Sally Schmuhl	Dan Fortenbacher	Wendy King	Matt Bradley	Susan Harris	Laurel Gacek	Bob Kynast
Ushers	Keith Stevens and Jim Manore	Peter and Karen Johnson	Fritz Knauf and Steve Bell	Pat Breyen & Rebecca Sebrechts	Walt and Sally Schmuhl	David and Emma Young	Eric and Deb Standen
Acolyte							
Nursery 1st							
Nursery 2nd	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul
Bldg. close		Jerry and Ruth Stelling		Bob and Mary Kynast		Brad and Marilyn Frey	Bob Hopkins
Snacks							
Flowers	Dennis Lundgren birthday		Jan Stevens birthday		Kathie Bradley birthday		Kynast anniversary & Dave Bradley birthday

◄ April

May 2018

June ►

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. with Holy Communion *9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes*		**1** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**2** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers	**3** 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	**4**	**5** NO Men's Devotion/Breakfast 11:00a.m. Picnic 1:00 p.m. Blossom Parade Starts
6 6:30 p.m.1st Sunday Book Discussion Group	**7** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**8** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**9** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 7:00 p.m. Deborah Circle Meeting	**10** 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	**11**	**12**
13 Mother's Day	**14** Newsletter articles due 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting	**15** 4:00 p.m. Vasa Meeting 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**16** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 7:00 p.m. Support Committee Meeting	**17** 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	**18** Wedding Rehearsal	**19** Wedding
20 Blossomland CROP Walk 2:15 p.m. Synod Assembly	**21** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group Synod Assembly	**22** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study Synod Assembly	**23** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers	**24** 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Soup Kitchen	**25**	**26**
27 9:30 a.m. Worship with Communion Summer Worship Schedule begins - one service only	**28** Memorial Day Office Closed Memorial Day	**29** 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**30** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers	**31**		